



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*Press Release***



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**Joint Readiness Training Center hosts Operation Iraqi Freedom
Mission Rehearsal Exercise**

FORT POLK, La. – Marines and Sailors from the 2d Reconnaissance Battalion (RECON BN), 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina are on Fort Polk to participate in a Joint Readiness Training Center Operation Iraqi Freedom Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX).

They will be challenged to use their skills against JRTC's 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne), the Opposing Force (OPFOR) for the training center.

The exercise will train the unit for deployment in an environment accurately replicating on-going operational and tactical situations found in Iraq. Role players will act as residents of the "country" and provide a variety of challenges to the unit. Individuals the unit may encounter include civilians, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and coalition forces.

The 2d RECON BN, composed of approximately 400 Marines and Sailors, currently has detachments in both Afghanistan and Haiti. The Marines and Sailors training here will deploy to Iraq some time this fall.

The mission of the 2d RECON BN is to conduct reconnaissance operations in support of a Marine division or major subordinate elements. Mission essential tasks are to conduct other tasks as directed by division to include overt (stability and support operations) and covert reconnaissance missions.

The MRX force on force training is scheduled from May 9th through the 16th; however troops will be in the area several days before and after the exercise.

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Media days to cover this rotation are the 9th - 11th, 13th and 14th May. Media must contact Major Ronald Elliott at 337-531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at 337-531-4630 immediately.